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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/433,351 11/04/99 GERIGK

R PM-264969

IM51/0228

EXAMINER

PILLSBURY MADISON & SUTRO LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP
1100 NEW YORK AVENUE NW
NINTH FLOOR EAST TOWER
WASHINGTON DC 20005-3918

HARAN, J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1733

DATE MAILED:

02/28/01

[Handwritten Number]

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

1M51/0228

HILLSBURY MADISON & SUTRO LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP
1100 NEW YORK AVENUE NW
NINTH FLOOR EAST TOWER
WASHINGTON DC 20005-3918

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED		
09/433,351	11/04/99	026	HARAN, J	1733 02/28/01		
First Named Applicant	BERIGK,	35 USC 154(b) term ext. =		0 Days.		
TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD FOR PREVENTING BUBBLES OR SMALL BUBBLES WHEN CONNECTING SUBSTRATE PARTS OF OPTICAL DATA CARRIERS BY MEANS OF AN ADHESIVE						
ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEES DUE	DATE DUE
Z PM-264969	156-272.200	C80	UTILITY	YES	\$620.00	05/29/01

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT.
PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.

Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/433,351	GERIGK ET AL.
	Examiner John T. Haran	Art Unit 1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 11/4/99.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable as formal drawings.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS , OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION.** This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review(PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE / SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Germany on 11/4/98. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the German application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-26 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art search failed to produce any references which, alone or in combination, disclosed, taught, or suggested a method of applying an electric charge to either the substrate parts of an optical data carrier or the adhesive that connects the substrate parts together in order to prevent the presence of bubbles between the substrate parts.

4. The presence of bubbles between the substrate parts of an optical data carrier, such as a DVD is a well known problem and there exist many methods for preventing such bubbles. For example it is known to bond substrate parts under vacuum to remove bubbles in the adhesive, as shown in Schwartz (U.S. Patent 5,982,740) Column 2, lines 61-62, or to rotate the substrate parts when bonding to evenly spread the adhesive and remove air bubbles, as shown in Amo et al (U.S. Patent 6,013,145) Column 2, lines 27-31, or to apply sufficient pressure when bonding to remove bubbles, as shown in Nakamura et al (U.S. Patent 6,004,420) Column 6, lines 23-37, or to provide a wetting promoter to one of the substrate parts to enable a uniform and air

bubble free adhesive layer to be formed, as shown in Guan et al (U.S. Patent 6,165,299) Column 3, lines 26-32. The prior art does not teach nor provide motivation to apply an electric charge to a substrate part or an adhesive to remove bubbles in an optical data carrier.

5. Hartmann (WO 89/05477) is directed to a curtain coating process wherein a coating is applied to a web material moving at a high speed. In prior curtain coating processes there existed the problem of air bubbles in the coating because of the web speed and Hartmann teaches providing the moving web material with an electrostatic charge in order to prevent air bubbles in the coating (Page 6, lines 7-30). The reference is directed to solving bubbles caused by a mismatch in the viscosity of the coating and the speed at which the web material is moving and provides no motivation for applying an electric charge to prevent air bubbles in optical data carriers.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **John T. Haran** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-0052**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (8 - 5) and alternate Fridays.

Art Unit: 1733

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael W. Ball can be reached on (703) 308-2058. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7718 for regular communications and (703) 305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

J. T. Haran

John T. Haran

February 23, 2001

mwb
Michael W. Ball
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700